

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

THE WEEK IN WASHINGTON.

Minor Matters of Interest in the Capital

SUNDAY, APRIL 8.—Director Preston, of the Mint Bureau, has completed his final figures on the gold production of the United States during the calendar year 1893. The total product is given as 1,238,081 ounces, of the value of \$35,950,000, which is an increase for the year of 73,455 ounces, representing \$1,518,423. The value of the gold in any mine may be found by multiplying the number of ounces by 20.67. These figures are about \$1,000,000 less than the aggregate values reported by the agents of the bureau for the year 1893. It has been unable to trace the full amount reported to the refineries and mints. The Director states that his estimates are certainly not in excess of the actual production.

MONDAY, APRIL 9.—The following is the letter of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Charles F. Crisp, to the family of Louis Kossuth, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the House and transmitted to the family through the State Department: "To the family of Louis Kossuth, deceased: The Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the House, assure you of the profound regret with which this body has heard of the death of the eminent Hungarian patriot, Louis Kossuth, once the guest of the American people. Recognizing the resplendent virtues, the vivid eloquence, the wonderful ability, and the sterling devotion to the cause of liberty, he respectfully offers the sincere sympathy of the members of the House to you in your affliction."

TUESDAY, APRIL 10.—The Senate Select Committee on the Ford's Theater disaster met this morning for the purpose of determining on a course of action in the investigation of claims arising from the disaster. The committee decided to take up the cases of claims for death at once, and settle them before the disability claims are adjudicated. The injured survivors of the disaster, Louis Kossuth, and the relief apportioned in the ratio of their disability.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11.—Senator Kyle introduced in the Senate a bill to provide for the day rest. It provides that no one shall perform any labor or engage in any amusement on Sunday to the disturbance of others, in any territory, district, vessel, or place subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States, on the Sabbath, and prohibits the transportation of the mails on that day of the week.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12.—Representative Straus, of New York, gave a dinner at the Arlington Hotel in honor of Speaker Crisp. Those present besides Mr. Straus and Speaker Crisp were Vice President Sherman, Senator Grover, Senator Patrick Walsh, Senator Arthur P. Gorman, Representatives C. B. Breckinridge, T. C. Catcheside, Benton McMillen, A. B. Montgomery, E. J. Dunphy, W. J. Bryan, Charles Tracy, and Mr. Don M. Dickinson, of Michigan. Secretary Lamont returned here after an extensive tour of inspection of the Army posts of the South and the West. He said he found that the army posts had enjoyed his trip exceedingly, and had learned a great deal about Army life on the frontier. He had traveled more than 7,000 miles, and had visited more than 100 posts, most of which he found in admirable condition.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13.—Mr. Alfred de Capareto, Swiss Minister to the United States, will shortly leave for his new post of duty as representative of the Swiss Republic at Vienna, disclaiming any intention of discourtesy to the United States in the remarks which he has made in connection with the late Chilean Claims Commission. He desires it to be distinctly understood that he has at no time expressed an opinion, publicly or otherwise, as to the reasons which prompted the Government of Chile and the United States to refuse an extension of the Commission. So far from desiring to cast any reflection on the Secretary of State for a failure to accept, at the proper time, an extension of the life of the Commission, he was extremely cautious in abstaining from any expression which could reflect upon either the United States or Chile.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14.—Representative Jerry Simpson, of Kansas, was reported to be better. His physician said that his condition was not necessarily serious, and that the most favorable circumstances Mr. Simpson could not resume his Congressional duties for at least a month. Mr. Simpson is suffering from kidney trouble, and the inflammation in his arm. The jury in the Pollard-Breckinridge breach-of-promise case returned a verdict of \$15,000 damages for the plaintiff. Col. Breckinridge will move a new trial.

CHAT OF THE CORRIDORS.
A medal-of-honor has been awarded to Second Lieut. Patrick de Lacy, Co. D, 143d Pa. for most distinguished gallantry in action at the Wilderness, May 6, 1864. In the charge upon one of the breastworks held by the enemy, Lieut. (then Serg't) de Lacy, running ahead of the line in a concentrated fire, shot the Confederate Color-bearer on the breastworks.

Senator Dixon, of Rhode Island, has made no campaign and is no candidate for re-election to the Senate. He intends to resign the practice of law, which has been interrupted during his political service, and which he says he cannot afford to extend for another six years.

Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire, and Senator Pasco, of Florida, are looking after the pairs and acting as whips during the tariff debate. Senator Gallinger thinks there will yet be a repetition of the scenes of the earlier debate in all-night sessions and physical endurance tests. He thinks the people of his State, practically irrespective of party, want the bill defeated, and he proposes to do all in his power to accomplish that end.

The widow of Gen. Corse, the hero of Allatoona, will probably yet receive her pension. Unanimous vote in the Senate passed the bill last week, and Representative McElrick, who has the bill in charge in the House, is confident of its passage.

Poor "Billy" McGarran has gone to a charity hospital. Just when success seemed most assured he was stricken down with nervous prostration. No more pathetic case of long suffering, endurance and hope deferred has ever been witnessed in the National Capital. It is of the remotest possibility now that his memorable claim, even if favorably acted upon by both Houses of Congress, can be adjusted in time to be of service to his advancing years.

There is a colored man at the White House who has been in the service nearly a quarter of a century. He is round as a ball and as happy as an angel. His complexion is that of a chocolate coal and his head is an immense elliptical billiard ball. Arthur was appointed by President Lincoln, and has acted as messenger to the Private Secretaries of nine Presidents. Arthur is an invaluable adjunct to the business and adornment of the White House.

Third Assistant Secretary of State Strobel, just appointed Minister to Ecuador, was thought by his friends from the beginning of the present Administration to be worthy of a foreign mission, and of a better one than he has just obtained. He was long Secretary of Legation at Madrid, and he is very well acquainted with the Spanish tongue, as well as with Spanish manners and customs.

Representative Moon, of Michigan, will not be a candidate for the next Congress. Mr. Moon has no fear of non-re-election, but instead expects four or five thousand Republican majority. But he has large business interests which demand his attention. The Representative announces in a letter to his people that he will retire. He declares that the country is in the power of the Southern wing of the Democratic party; that all legislation is being shaped from the cotton planter's standpoint; that Northern interests are being sacrificed, and that when Northern voters appreciate this fact, a Northern Democrat will not be elected to Congress for the next 25 years.

There is a man in the Senate Document Room who has been there for 30 years, and who has rendered invaluable service to his Uncle Samuel. He knows the history of all legislation, has the facts found in all public documents at his fingers' ends, and is a human index to the Congressional Record, being able at a moment's notice to turn almost to the exact page for any speech on any subject that has attracted the attention of Congress during the past quarter of a century. Administrations have come and gone, but Mr. Smith remains secure in his position. He is one of the few men who have been honored by being mentioned by name in appropriation bills.

"Our photograph galleries should be called matrimonial bureaus," said a prominent photographer on Pennsylvania avenue. "Do you know that many marriages are brought about every year in this city through the photographers? The way it is done is just this: Young men and young ladies stop to look at our display windows and become interested in certain pictures. They will visit that gallery daily and try their tribute of admiration at the shrine of the charmer whose features are there portrayed. That goes on for a time, and then they maneuver to secure an introduction. Once in a while they are woefully disappointed in the original, and the friendship is short-lived. But very frequently their expectations are more than realized, and wedding-bells are necessary to consummate the meeting of the young man with a pretty girl's picture."

Representative Breckinridge did not get the verdict he expected in the now-notorious damage suit in which he was involved. But he says he will not let the litigation end where it is now. He proposes to exhaust every remedy known to the law to get a different judgment. He intends to continue in Congress, and to stand for a re-election. He insists that he has been persecuted and maliciously slandered in the court room and out of it. He says that his re-election would not be an approval of what he has done that was wrong, but simply a declaration that the people who knew him and elected him were still willing to trust him as their Congressional Representative.

If ex-Speaker Reed and William Bourke Cockran were personal as well as political enemies, the debate between them in the House would be even more interesting than they are. As it is, each is too fond of the other to give him a severe thrashing, even for the sake of that party applause which is like the breath of life to a debater in the House of Representatives. Cockran admires Reed, and Reed admires Cockran. Cockran thinks Reed is the greatest man in the Republican party, and Reed thinks Cockran is the greatest man in the Democratic party, at least in the House of Representatives. It is their humor which chiefly makes them congenial, probably. It gives them both a philosophical point of view from which to observe the passing show, and the attitude most of the time, although occasionally they are as deeply interested in something as the smaller men whom they rather look down upon are in everything.

The action taken last week in Democratic caucus towards the counting of a quorum whether or no, and the deduction of a certain amount for each day's absence in case of members who are not ill, will very likely be ratified in the House. The Democratic leaders got desperate last week because they could do no business owing to inability to produce a quorum, and so resorted to heroic measures. Meanwhile the absentees are skipping back to Washington, and the Committee on Rules is about to present its resolution. A leading Republican, who early expressed a qualified intention to vote for the rule, is now doubtful of the expediency of giving the proposition the support of the Republican minority.

"I think," he said, "it would be wise to let the Democrats adopt the rule by their own votes. Unless they all confess their fault and make the rule possible by their united support, I am afraid they may yet later on that it isn't a Democratic measure anyhow, and that it was foisted upon the House by a combination of Democrats and Republicans. Probably we had better let them decide the matter for themselves."

Another prominent Republican said he saw no benefit to come to either the Republican party or to the country by aiding the Democrats to count a quorum, and thus pave the way for the enactment of whatever purpose the leaders of the majority may form. He thought it might prove to be a dangerous power in the hands of the majority, and he was inclined to withhold his vote from the scheme.

To those persons who hear of Cabinet officers only when they are on parade, as it were, and who can think of them only as individuals chosen for a time to bask in the sunlight of publicity, it seldom occurs that the Cabinet officer is a man of work, and it would probably surprise them to know that Cabinet officers devote more hours of each day to hard labor than most subordinates in their Departments. That there is much of anxiety to be borne in the Cabinet offices is known to all who recall the fate of Folger, Manning, and Windom, each of whom hastened his death by too close application to his duties. A vast weight of responsibility, indeed, rests on the shoulders of the holder of a portfolio.

Probably it will not be many weeks more before Representative Wilson, of the new tariff bill, will return to his seat in Congress, in full restoration to the health he lost as a result of the nervous strain over the measure which bears his name. "Billy" Wilson will be 51 in May, and has a son larger than himself. His personal appearance is what might be termed scholarly. When he throws away his inevitable cigar, puts on his eye-glasses and pores over a book, he is as much the professor to look at as if he were sitting in a chair at a university. But Mr. Wilson is not so very impractical as he looks, as his associates in committee and Chamber have had reason to know since he has been Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

To the average member of Congress a Secretary is indispensable for the performance of routine work, and often represents a Senator or Representative pro tempore. When his chief stays in Washington and looks after everything necessary, and acting in every capacity but that of voter and attendant upon meetings of committees. There are fully 50 men in Congress who practically delegate their duties to a Secretary, and who have seldom been seen at a committee meeting since the present Congress met. They appear to consider that they should not be called upon to do any work except when their personal interests or the interests of their districts demand it. They draw their salaries, however, with the same regularity as those who attend Congress and occupy their time daily with the consideration of public affairs.

What a complete world the Capital building is! The public know little of its "ins and outs." Only those who have become habitues realize the half of what goes on under the grand dome. One might enter the Capitol and live there for weeks without needing to communicate with the outside, except to purchase clothing and dry-goods if he should need them. Often Senators and Representatives take up their quarters there for many days at a time. The restaurants supply as many meals as the boarders may desire; there are elegant machine shops both of the building and the great leather-covered seats of committees room make beds as luxurious as most men desire. Frequently bedding has been brought in, so that a few hours' repose might be indulged in with all the comforts of home. This has been an exciting night session was on.

An idea of the expenses incidental to the production of that journal of enlightenment, the Congressional Record, may be had by viewing some of the items of the \$125,840.30 expended last year. The largest sum, \$98,037.09, was for wages, and the smallest, 50 cents, was for two gallons of oil. Eighty-five reams of marble paper, 574,755 pounds of machine-finish paper, 40,332 pounds of Manila paper and 39,790 pounds of binder's board were used. Other funds were used for type, ink, roller composition, blankets, iron, gas, two barrels of flour, 260 packs of gold leaf, one engraving for illustration, telephone rent, repairs to wagons and harness, 88 spools of thread, 1,400 pounds of glue, 107 pieces of tape, 84 pounds of twine, 52 pounds of cast iron, seven galvanized iron boxes and one bicycle. Of bound and unbound copies of the Record, 7,980 went to the Senate folding room, 11,616 to the House folding room, 400 to the House Library, 208 to the Library of Congress, 36 to officers of the House, 56 to the justices and officers of the Supreme Court, 20 to the official reporter of the Senate and 2,001 to the State and Territorial libraries, beside 6,000 delivered unbound upon orders of members of Congress.

Gen. Russell A. Alger was in town last week and was found perfectly willing to talk on the political situation. "It takes no prophetic vision," said he, "to read the early return of the Republican party to power. This is a Republican year; the very air vibrates that fact, and I shouldn't wonder but that it even penetrated the South. The working people have been doing some serious thinking in the last few months, and that of the future has been good progress is being made at the Springfield Armory with the new Army rifle, and it is expected that the first installment will be ready for delivery before the end of the year. These arms will be shipped to the 2d Inf., at Omaha, Neb. The second installment will go to the 4th Inf., at Fort Sherman, Idaho. After the infantry regiments will be supplied in order based on their performance at target practice."

Naval ordnance officers fired two shots from the big 13-inch gun at Indian Head proving ground, which had proved its complete satisfaction that the gun is a magnificent weapon, probably unsurpassed for all practical purposes. The occasion for firing the gun was the delivery of the new gun, which weighs more than half a ton. The target was a 12-inch nickel-steel plate, and both shells went entirely through it, one of them striking in pieces and the other remaining intact after it had penetrated the nickel-steel. The gun was unhurt by the operation of rushing its half-ton mass through a foot of solid steel, which is exactly what the ordnance officers had in mind when they were testing the great 17-inch armor for the battleships.

The court-martial which tried Commander O. J. Heyer and his gunnery crew, for suffering the Kearsarge to be wrecked on Roncador reef, and of "inefficiency in the performance of duty," the word "culpable," which preceded the "inefficiency" in the second charge, being stricken out. The sentence is a two-year suspension on waiting orders. Commander Heyerman to retain his number and rank.

NEW APPOINTMENTS.
The following nominations have been made: Navy—Commodore Francis M. Ramsey, to be Rear-Admiral; Capt. Thomas O. Selbridge, to be Commodore; Commander Philip H. Cooper, to be Captain.

Grant's and Lee's Strength.
EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Please give me the following information: Gen. Longstreet, in a recent article in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, speaks of Gen. Lee's 38,000 muskets confronting Grant's 110,000 men. Had Grant's reinforcements been made on the same basis as Lee's, what would have been the number of muskets opposed to Lee's 38,000?

Can you give me a rough estimate of Lee's loss from the 1st of January, 1865, to the 8th of April, same year? Also, there are many who say that the number of deserters from Lee's army to the front from the 1st of January, 1865, to the 1st of April, same year, Pollard claims that for every one that deserted to the front 10 deserted to the rear. If that is the case, Lee's effective strength on the 1st of January, 1865, is far greater than the rebel historians are willing to admit. I know that there were a number of deserters every morning at the Headquarters, Army of the James, and probably a good many more at the Headquarters, Army of the Potomac. I would like a larger force by name, but this was very necessary, as he was holding a wide circle of territory, stretching on the north of the James clear from that river to the Shenandoah Valley. He had to be very strong at every point in the long circle, because Lee could concentrate readily on any that seemed to offer an opportunity. Jan. 1, 1865, Lee must have had altogether from 70,000 to 100,000 men, because, after all the losses he sustained from desertion and from those who were dispersed or captured in the evacuation of Richmond, and the disastrous fights at Highbridge, Sailor's Creek and Pamunkey, he still had 28,000 with him when he surrendered at Appomattox.—EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

"When will Congress adjourn?" was asked of Representative Holman, of Indiana. "The House," replied Mr. Holman, "could adjourn the last of this month. There is no reason why both Houses should not be ready to adjourn by the 1st of June."

"It is not believed," it was suggested, "that the Senate will finish its consideration of the bill for the purchase of a site for the Public Printing Office has been forced into the background by the tariff bill, but will be brought up at the first convenient opportunity. When the Senate decides to purchase the Mahone site, Mr. Harris moved to reconsider the vote. The motion is now pending. If enough Senators vote for this motion to secure a reconsideration, Mr. Vest will then press his committee bill providing for the extension of the present printing office, and Mr. Anderson will make a vigorous attempt to induce the Senate to decide in favor of the old baseball park."

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tariff bill before the middle of June. In that event an adjournment could hardly be reached for six weeks later, or about the 1st of August, could it?

"I think that is a mistake," said Mr. Holman. "The Democrats in the Senate appreciate the necessity of speedy action on the tariff bill, and an effort will be made to pass it through that body as quickly as possible. The appropriation bills have been rigidly scrutinized at this session, and their aggregate amounts have been reduced as fully as is consistent with the necessities of the Government. They can't in all fairness be reduced much further, and for that reason there ought to be no delay in passing them. In view of this fact an early adjournment may be safely predicted. I want say, however, Judge Holmes continued, 'that if Congress is in session after the 15th of June it will be fatal to Democratic prospects next Autumn. If we adjourn by that time we will have an opportunity of getting out among the people and explaining our position on the different matters which have come before us, and thus carry the next House.'"

SENATOR VANCE DIES.
A Prominent Figure of the Upper House Leaves the Arena.

Senator Zebulon Baird Vance, of North Carolina, died in this city April 14 of apoplexy. Senator Vance traced his lineage from the best North Carolina families. His paternal grandfather was a Revolutionary hero, and on his mother's side, Col. Zebulon Baird served the State for many years in military and legislative capacities.

Born near Asheville, Buncombe County, May 13, 1830, Senator Vance passed his youth in the home that always remained his. He studied alone and fitted himself for the college course here afterwards. He later studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1854. Buncombe County at once honored him with election as County Solicitor. In 1854 he represented his County in the Legislature. The next year he took part in the editorial management of the Asheville Spectator, the leading Whig paper of that section. He failed of election to the State Senate in 1856, but in 1858 he was elected to Congress for an unexpired term, and again for the succeeding full term.

He opposed secession when the war broke out, withstanding the movement, publicly. He left the Union with his State. He served as Captain in the 20th N. C., and rose to Colonel.

In 1862 he was elected Governor, and continued in office until the war closed. He left for a brief period to study law at the University of Virginia, and joined Jefferson Davis at Charlotte. Afterward he sought refuge in the interior of the State, where he was arrested in May, and taken to the Federal prison in Washington. He secured a parole in July.

Col. Vance has been prominent in politics ever since the war. In 1870 he was elected to the United States Senate. That body refused to receive him, and he remained in exile until his resignation to the Legislature. In 1876 he received by an almost unanimous convention vote the nomination of his party for Governor, and was elected by a large majority. The Legislature sent him to the Senate in 1879, and he was elected again without opposition in 1885. His third term began in 1891.

ARMY AND NAVY.
The retirement of Rear-Admiral Benham closes the active career of one of the best officers in the United States Navy, the culmination of which is the death of his brother, Rear-Admiral John C. Benham, who died in Washington. He secured a parole in July.

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The "Better Half."

There are wet-blanket women in this world who are sure to spoil any story you may tell by asking questions. Sometimes you stop your story at the first interruption, knowing that by the time you have gotten to the end the little fun and interest you know to be in it will have dribbled away, although there may have been enough to make a few sentences entertaining. If you persevere and drag the story through there is a flat, pinched, ragged, pitiful account that does your wit nor the appreciation of your audience no credit whatever.

So when I saw Mrs. Kelly in the parlor I knew my little news of the Waverly element was going to suffer. Mrs. Kelly had known me when I was a baby and had no scruples about asking questions about any of my life since. But I started in bravely.

"I met one of the girls on the Avenue today," "What were you doing on the Avenue today," broke in Mrs. Kelly.

"I took my watch down to the jeweler's." "Have you broken your watch again?" "Yes; smashed the crystal."

"And just a few weeks ago you had it there to be mended."

"To be cleaned," I corrected, out of justice to my own character. "I met Anne Wilkins, and she told me such a funny story that Mrs. Price had told her about."

"I did not know that Anne knew Mrs. Price."

"Well, she said Mrs. Price told her—" "Mrs. Price told me herself that she did not know Anne, and that she wanted to meet her because she is such a friend of yours."

"Perhaps she met her just lately," I explained, feebly.

"O, I guess they met at Mrs. White's. Mrs. Price was there one day last week, and you know Anne Wilkins is there continually. It's funny what good friends Mrs. Price and Mrs. White are getting to be after all the mean things they have said of each other."

I wanted to insert a little sermon to the effect that a great many things spoken at needlessly unkindly, acquire a mean twang after they have been repeated once or twice, and the gossip is responsible for the unpleasant stir, although she may have reported the actual words; but my glory was still so distant that I patiently began again on it.

"It was about the elopement down at the Waverly."

"Was there an elopement down there? They are always having sensations at that hotel."

"No, there wasn't any; that's the story."

"I know it's Maggie and Tom Fiske. She always was dead in love with him."

"No; neither Maggie nor Tom, but a beautiful blonde maiden and a wicked, very wicked man."

"Who were they?" "I am not going to tell. A mystery is much more exciting, and you will find out soon enough, anyhow."

"I know it's Maggie and Tom. She would run away with him in a minute if she had the chance."

"No, I tell you it was not Maggie." (Now Maggie is one of my well-beloved chums, and I hate to have her poked off on a man that way, so I put big periods at the end of each sentence, and it had an immediate effect, for I soon finished my tale.)

"Well, go on with your story."

"All there is of it is that the girl told her chum, her chum told her brother, the chum's brother was young and conscientious, and did not know exactly whether telling would be dishonorable, or whether he would be responsible if he did not tell. He told his mother his difficulty, and she solved the question by warning the mother immediately, and, of course, there was no elopement. The arduous of the wicked man has abated, and his reputation for wickedness has increased, so he is satisfied; and the girl, after talking it over with her mother, decided she would not mind another season or two in Washington society before she decided to marry."

Sorosis being our most famous woman's club, it is well to consider its decisions, and Sorosis has decided that "Water Babies" is a proper book for children to read.

Spring styles come out slowly and cautiously as the flowers are doing, as if they also feared the sudden changes of sunshine and snow that have distinguished this Springtime.

Parisian milliners have alighted made of spun glass for hat trimming.

Sweet peas must be planted early, so that during the cool weeks they may grow stout roots, deep down. When the sun gets warm he teases them out to grow above ground. If they have not had time to make plenty of roots the same sunshine will burn them away in the summer months. Given the chance to grow good roots, they do but blossom often for the July and August sunshine. A four-foot wire screen or bush is none too high for them to climb, and they need to be watered frequently, to be carefully trained over their support and to have the blossoms gathered continually.

A moiré cape of the fashionable cut and length is pictured. It is a garment more suitable for an older woman than a young girl. The yoke is of the moiré, the two ruffles around it of lace and the edging of black ostrich feather trimming. The high frilled collar is of the moiré.

We are said to be very clumsy at laundrying as compared to the French and English women. We have irons and tubs, soap and water, as good as theirs, but we are more careless, and have never given the subject any particular study. We would badly-lauded clothing as a matter of course. Most women have only one size of iron. Various sizes do the work better; narrow ones for ruffles and narrow pieces. Fluting-irons for frills, and a paper-knife for help ticks to lay smooth and straight.

A little box added to starch prevents it from sticking when the shirt fronts come to be smoothed and a pinch of soda dropped in the bluing water will test it for iron. If there be iron in the bluing the water will turn red, and if the bluing be used on the clothes it makes rust spots as sure as fate. White goods can be put to soak, but flannels and colored goods never should be. Soap should not be

PIANO
AT WHOLESALE.
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